

## FUTURE FORECAST

It is estimated that the population of Wilson will grow from 28,753 in 1960 to approximately 35,000 in 1980. This would be an absolute growth of 6,000 over the period. During the same period, the population of Wilson County is estimated to gain 3,500, or from 1960 population of 57,716 to 1980 population of 61,033.

The tobacco market is expected to continue to play a major role in Wilson's growth. The diversification of industries, however, is expected to play a more important role in the future. Still, it is unlikely that there would be any major population growth in Wilson's trade area. The area is losing population and its development possibilities are restricted. The trade areas of cities of similar magnitude all around it restricts any further extensions of its boundaries. If the existing trend continues, the area will have an estimated population of 16,700 in 1980. The total population of the City of Wilson is expected to increase from 38 percent of the trade area in 1960 to approximately 59 percent in 1980. It is estimated that an aggregate of 79,366 persons will be living in Wilson's trade area in 1980. This is an absolute increase of 4,278 persons over 1960.

### TREND IN POPULATION FOR WILSON CITY, COUNTY & TRADE AREA

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980
City	19,234	23,010	28,753	34,088	38,454
County	50,219	54,506	57,716	59,598	61,033
Trade Area	68,105	72,488	75,088	77,833	79,366

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Source: 1940, 1950 and 1960 U. S. Bureau of the Census. Projections of 1970 and 1980 for the City of Wilson and the County of Wilson by Professor C. Horace Hamilton, Department of Rural Sociology, North Carolina State College. Trade area estimates and projections are based on Professor Hamilton's study.